

STAFF SGT. MARION JOHNSON, UNITED STATES MARINE  
CORPS, AND SGT. GEORGE B. KRESS, UNITED STATES  
MARINE CORPS RESERVE

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DECEMBER 17 (legislative day, DECEMBER 15), 1943.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. WALSH of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Naval Affairs,  
submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany S. 1517]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1517) for the relief of Staff Sgt. Marion Johnson, United States Marine Corps and Sgt. George B. Kress, United States Marine Corps Reserve, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the bill is to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Treasury to pay out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$283.50 to Staff Sgt. Marion Johnson, United States Marine Corps, and the sum of \$214 to Sgt. George B. Kress, United States Marine Corps Reserve.

These sums represent the value of claimants' personally owned camera equipment lost in a fire in the laboratory of the public relations section, southern procurement division, United States Marine Corps Recruiting Station, Rialto Building, 76 Forsyth Street NW., Atlanta, Ga., on August 28, 1942.

The officer in charge of the public relations section of the southern procurement division, reports that on the completion of their basic military training at the Marine Barracks, Parris Island, S. C., the transfer of both Staff Sgt. Marion Johnson and Sgt. George B. Kress was requested to the public relations section, southern procurement division, Atlanta, Ga., for service as photographic sergeants. These men brought their privately owned cameras and equipment because at the time there were no Government cameras or equipment supplied.

The officer in charge expresses the view that the action of these men in making available their own personally owned equipment was "a very generous and loyal contribution to Government service at a time when the whole southern division was working under high pressure to recruit male marines, and such photographic service as these men

rendered with their own equipment was of great value to that recruiting service."

The intention of the public relations officer was that as soon as Government-owned cameras and equipment (request for which had previously been made) were provided, the claimants were to be equipped with them and were to use them on Government service.

The public relations section above-mentioned, was occupying quarters on the second floor of the Rialto Building located at 76 Forsyth Street NW., Atlanta, Ga., under a lease entered into by the United States. The ground floor of this building was occupied by a private mercantile establishment. Late at night on August 26, 1942, after all of the Marine Corps personnel had departed on completion of the day's duty, a fire broke out in the private establishment on the ground floor. As a result of such fire the photographic laboratory of the Marine Corps on the second floor was gutted and claimants' property destroyed. The loss of such equipment was not attributed in any degree to negligence on the part of Government personnel.

There is no other authority of law by virtue of which the claims may be adjusted.

The Navy Department is of the opinion that provision should be made for the payment of these claims in that the property was made available to meet an urgent Government need when the United States was unable to provide the necessary equipment for the purpose. The loss of claimants' property occurred without fault or negligence on their part.

The items of equipment destroyed, with the original cost thereof and date of purchase, are shown in the tables below:

*Equipment of Staff Sgt. Marion Johnson, U. S. Nurses Corps*

	Total cost	Purchase date
1 camera 4 by 5 speed graphic No. 232420.....	\$80.00	July 13, 1939
1 lens, Carl Zeiss 14, 5 No. 2276079.....	50.00	Do.
1 range finder, Kalart.....	27.50	Mar. 20, 1940
1 speed gun and reflector, Mendelson.....	17.50	July 13, 1939
12 holders, cut film 4 by 5, at \$2.75 each.....	33.00	Do.
1 case, camera carrying.....	28.50	Do.
1 tripod, Crown No. 0.....	11.00	Do.
4 filters, photographic, at \$2.50 each.....	10.00	Do.
1 shade, lens.....	2.00	Do.
1 light meter, Weston.....	24.00	Mar. 20, 19
Total.....	283.50	

*Equipment of Sgt. George B. Kress, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve*

	Total cost	Purchase date
2 reflectors, 20-inch, at \$8.50 each.....	\$17.00	Dec. 15, 1940
2 reflectors, 16-inch, at \$5.50 each.....	11.00	Do.
4 stands, metal, at \$6 each.....	24.00	Do.
1 shade, photographic.....	12.00	Mar. 20, 1940
1 case, camera carrying.....	28.50	Do.
1 trunk, photographic.....	25.00	Dec. 15, 1940
1 meter, light, Weston.....	24.00	Aug. 1, 1939
4 filters, photographic, at \$2.50 each.....	10.00	Mar. 20, 1940
1 shade, lens.....	2.00	Do.
12 holders, cut film 4 by 5, at \$2.75 each.....	33.00	Do.
1 tripod, metal.....	15.00	Do.
1 extension, flash.....	12.50	Do.
Total.....	214.00	

The officer in charge of the public relations section, southern procurement division, who has dealt with cameramen and their equipment for 35 years in civilian life as a newspaperman, reports that equipment of this character does not deteriorate with age and use but, in the case of cameras, improves with age and use; that it is impossible to obtain such equipment on the open market today; that the second-hand price of such equipment today is higher than the original purchase price and, in his judgment, "the claims are eminently reasonable."

The additional cost to the Government, should this legislation be enacted, would not exceed \$497.50.

The bill was introduced at the request of the Navy Department, and has been cleared by the Bureau of the Budget.



